

MASTER PLAN	for the	Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood	

CHAPTER THREE: LIVABILITY

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Goal: A quieter, cleaner, better kept-up, and safer neighborhood.

Background

The neighborhood faces many livability challenges. Livability is the measure of how well people can live in a neighborhood without being adversely impacted by noise, rundown properties, vandalism, graffiti, trash and litter, crime, pollution, and abusive behavior toward residents. Number one on the list of things people do not like about their neighborhood is housing deterioration. Noisy parties also rank high on the list of dislikes. Garbage, trash, and litter problems are also a significant challenge followed by poor street lighting and pollution.

The neighborhood's livability objectives are stated below:

Objectives for Neighborhood Livability

- Litter and Trash
- Noisy Parties
- Vandalism and Graffiti
- Property Maintenance
- Reporting of Violations
- Snow Removal
- Air Quality
- Bars and Alcohol
- University of Minnesota Sports Events
- Noise

Litter and Trash

Objective: A generally cleaner neighborhood.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood will request that the City clarify whose responsibility it is to pick up trash on private property and notify landlords. There is uncertainty as to whether it is the landlord or the tenants.
2. The neighborhood will work with the fraternities and sororities and others to coordinate clean sweep and other efforts to clean up the neighborhood.
3. The neighborhood is in favor of more concrete public trash receptacles and the timely emptying of them.
4. The neighborhood also supports efforts to keep the bus stops, bus shelters, and other public spaces free of trash and litter.
5. The neighborhood supports increased trash removal efforts during the fall move-in and spring move-out periods to contend with the additional trash and objects that are thrown out during these periods.

Noisy Parties

Objective: A substantial reduction in noisy parties.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood supports efforts by the City of Minneapolis, Marcy-Holmes neighborhood, and NRP to deploy more police patrols from the spring to early fall to respond to noisy party complaints.
2. The neighborhood strongly urges the City to enforce its existing zero tolerance approach to livability crimes.
3. The neighborhood encourages and will provide support for the police to document the calls and the results of the police response so that the neighborhood can focus mitigation efforts on those properties.
4. The neighborhood supports CCP/SAFE and will continue to work with the Second Precinct SAFE officers.
5. The neighborhood supports increased landlord, student, and U of M accountability.
6. The neighborhood encourages the U of M and surrounding schools to develop a code of conduct for students and an office of student conduct.
7. The neighborhood encourages residents and neighbors to use 911. The complaint should be recorded as a “noisy party” violation.
8. The neighborhood encourages mixing of students and long-term residents in a Block Club format so that they can exchange views concerning noisy parties and other related issues.
9. The neighborhood and CCP/SAFE also will work with the alternative schools, group homes, and halfway houses to communicate the need for the students and residents to respect the neighborhood.

Vandalism and Graffiti

Objective: Reduction of vandalism and graffiti and closer police-community relations.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood encourages the City, MHNA, and NRP to provide support for the Minneapolis police to increase patrols and police presence in the early fall and spring time periods. Increased police patrols on weekends between midnight and 2:30 A.M. are essential.
2. The neighborhood will encourage and seek to provide information and some financial support to encourage the quick removal of graffiti by the property owner. This is the most effective way to keep the problem from spreading.
3. The neighborhood supports the distribution of information to landlords and residents on how to fight graffiti.
4. The neighborhood urges the Minneapolis Police Department to document the calls and perpetrators of these offenses.

5. The City and State should outlaw the sale of spray paint and acids to minors in the state of Minnesota to prevent acts of vandalism.
6. The neighborhood supports the dissemination of information to new renters that encourages them to secure their bicycles and apartments immediately upon occupying their new apartments in the fall of the year when burglaries and thefts are the worst.
7. Regular foot patrols are encouraged for the Dinkytown area.

Property Maintenance

Objective: Promotion of a sense of responsibility and respect for property.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood encourages landlord accountability for maintenance of their property.
2. The neighborhood encourages the University of Minnesota to provide information to students that encourages them to respect property and the neighborhood.
3. The neighborhood will continue to develop and support programs and activities that foster a pride of ownership in neighborhood properties.

Reporting of Violations

Objective: Periodic, vigilant reporting of livability violations in the neighborhood.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood must advocate stronger ordinances, and make greater efforts in the reporting of suspected violations to city officials, and university officials when relevant, related to parking, yard clutter, graffiti, noisy parties, garbage, and unkempt properties by publishing the phone numbers that people can call to make complaints.
2. The neighborhood strongly urges the City to enforce its ordinances related to livability crimes.
3. The neighborhood also supports the development of a program to emphasize housing code violations and enforcement each spring and fall. A team of up to thirty landlords and residents would be directed or encouraged to canvas the neighborhood and report all the property violations such as broken windows or graffiti that they see in their sector. It is hoped that this kind of two-week effort done twice a year will not burn-out residents involved in the program.
4. The neighborhood supports hiring staff to deal with livability crime violations, record keeping, monitoring, and compliance.

Snow Removal

Objective: Ensure adequate snow removal.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood will advocate for the swift clearance of snow near senior citizen buildings and in the commercial areas of Dinkytown and Central Avenue.
2. The neighborhood will cooperate with the City in getting the message out to all property owners that it is their responsibility to clear snow from sidewalks.
3. The neighborhood supports a program to provide assistance to those who are unable to remove their own snow.

Air Quality

Objective: Cleaner air.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood supports the reduction of auto emissions by supporting the bus system.
2. The neighborhood also supports developing pedestrian and bicycle linkages to downtown, the U of M, and the river trail system.

3. Power plants should be converted to natural gas.
4. The City needs to make a stronger effort to identify and reduce pollution from business sources that are polluting the environment, particularly along the river and along the 9th Street corridor. (An environmental profile done in 1996 details those locations where the neighborhood needs to focus its attention.)

Bars and Alcohol

Objective: No more, preferably fewer, bars in the Dinkytown area.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood requests that the City of Minneapolis not grant any more on-sale liquor licenses to bars that encourage binge or underage drinking. These practices include “All you can drink “ or similar promotions and advertising that promotes excessive drinking.
2. The neighborhood also requests that the City of Minneapolis more stringently review license renewals and withhold renewal to those businesses that are serving underage patrons.
3. The neighborhood supports the City’s adoption of special provisions and training of employees of Dinkytown drinking establishments to curb underage drinking.

University of Minnesota Sports Events

Objective: Avoiding or mitigating the negative impacts of a campus football stadium.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood is opposed to a campus football stadium that would also include the Minnesota Vikings.
2. The neighborhood will oppose any stadium plan that adds parking problems in the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood.
3. The neighborhood is opposed to tailgating activities in the neighborhood.

Noise

Objective: Reduction of the general level of noise in the neighborhood.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood supports the City's existing noise ordinance and wants the City to enforce it more vigorously.
2. The neighborhood encourages and will provide support to the City and police to do a much better job of enforcing the existing ordinance and documenting offenders so that the neighborhood can assist in mitigative measures.

3. The neighborhood supports the study of the feasibility of constructing a deck over I-35W that will suppress noise and link the two sides of the neighborhood.
4. The neighborhood opposes events that direct loud music from speakers into the neighborhood.